

## TV-12 cablecasts candidate forum

Attention, Farmington-area voters who weren't able to attend Wednesday's state Senate candidate forum: Turn on your TVs or program your VCRs.

The forum will be cablecast 1:30-3:30 p.m. Friday, May 10,

on Time Warner community access cable Channel 12.

The Monday, May 13, primary will eliminate three Republicans in the race for state senator in the 15th District, which includes Farmington and Farm-

ington Hills. GOP hopefuls are state Reps. Willis Bullard and Barbara Dobb, Hills Councilman Terry Sever and Ed Cox. The Republican winner will face Barry Brickner, the lone Democrat, in the June 4 general election.

## Farmington budget proposes \$7 tax hike, no extra services

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

For \$6.96 more in taxes, the owner of an average priced home in Farmington can expect the same city services.

The proposed \$8.64 million 1996-97 budget calls for a .12-mill increase in the general fund operations taxes.

A public hearing will take place Monday, June 3, in city council chambers. Council would then consider approving the recommended budget.

The less-than-one percent tax increase would bring the city rate to 16.66 mills, including debt service. That adds up to \$908.28 a year for an owner of the average priced home, which is \$110,000 according to Chamber of Commerce statistics.

City Manager Frank Lauhoff formally presented the balanced budget to city council at Monday's meeting.

Since Proposal A, city spending

has remained in a holding pattern.

Capital expenditures have been on a replacement basis and the city has not added any additional full-time employees in 20 years, City Manager Frank Lauhoff said.

The voter-approved legislation in 1994 capped property value growth at 5 percent.

The city expects a \$125,000 loss in potential revenue because \$3 million will not be realized in state equalized valuation growth.

Part of the loss — \$103,000 — will be offset by the tax increase and another \$3,000 will be drawn from the city's fund balance.

Overall, the city expects to see \$3.64 million in revenues.

"We budget with the hope — with all the efficiencies — that we come in under that number," Lauhoff said.

Taxes generate \$2.97 million of that while another \$1.28 million is debt service revenue.

State shared revenues account for another \$1 million — a 5-per-

cent increase from the previous year. State shared revenues declined 10 percent in previous years, which has not been recouped by cities.

Other income is received from fines, charges for services, and licenses and permits.

Salaries and benefits account for 56 percent — \$3.12 million — of expenditures.

General government expenses, which includes the 47th District Court, are expected to run \$1.25 million.

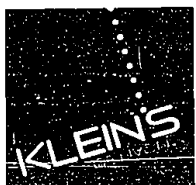
Public Safety budget is expected to increase from \$1.68 million to \$1.78 million. Public Works Department is projected to spend \$1.11 million in the next fiscal year compared to \$992,000 in this term's budget.

Farmington also jointly funds several agencies with Farmington Hills. A new formula was devised between the two cities, taking into account population and SEV.

As a result, Farmington's share to the Senior Program increases by \$41,000.

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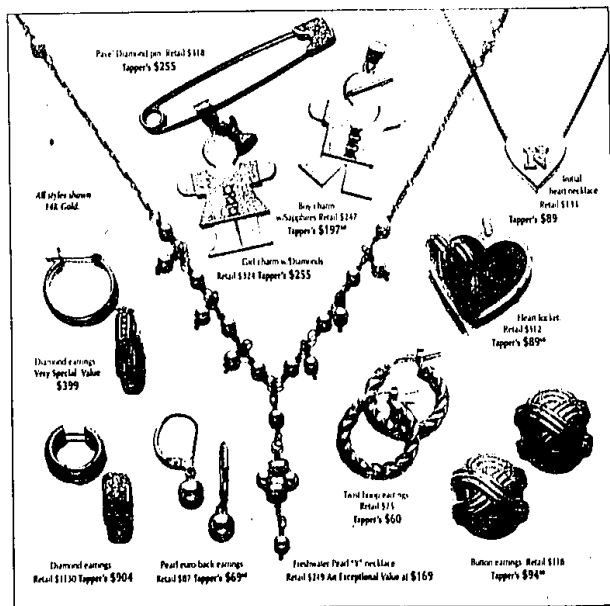
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